

20071128.ba v04_n112.bam.20071128

>From ???@??? Wed Nov 28 17:38:53 2007 -0600
Date: Wed, 28 Nov 2007 23:37:26 GMT
From: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: BOATANCHORS digest 4112
Message-Id: <20071128233727.B1898319FE0@srvr1.theporch.com>

BOATANCHORS Digest 4112

Topics covered in this issue include:

- 1) Re: My first CQ WWDX Contest
by w8au@sssnet.com
- 2) Re: My first CQ WWDX Contest
by "Tom Rauch" <w8ji@contesting.com>
- 3) Re: Did you know yellow print makes 6146s mo bettah?
by "Arden Allen" <gumbear@pacbell.net>
- 4) Re: PERFECT NOS NIB MATCHING PAIR OF 6146B/8298A 8298 TUBES
by "Arden Allen" <gumbear@pacbell.net>
- 5) Re: My first CQ WWDX Contest
by "Arden Allen" <gumbear@pacbell.net>
- 6) Re: My first CQ WWDX Contest
by spr@earthlink.net
- 7) changing address at theporch.com
by Tom Norris <r390a@bellsouth.net>
- 8) Off subject but relative
by Thomas Frobase <tfrobase@kitparts.com>
- 9) Re: My first CQ WWDX Contest
by wb3fau@att.net
- 10) Re: PERFECT NOS NIB MATCHING PAIR OF 6146B/8298A 8298 TUBES
by wb3fau@att.net
- 11) Re: My first CQ WWDX Contest
by wb3fau@att.net
- 12) PTT mod for Johnson Ranger
by "Dr. James C. Garland" <4cx250b@muohio.edu>
- 13) Buddy can u spare a RT-70 hulk?
by stuck in 50s <polepeeg@aa4rm.ba-watch.org>
- 14) Re: Buddy can u spare a RT-70 hulk?
by Richard Loken <richardlo@admin.athabascau.ca>
- 15) Re: PTT mod for Johnson Ranger
by Garey Barrell <k4oah@mindspring.com>
- 16) Re: PTT mod for Johnson Ranger
by "Arden Allen" <gumbear@pacbell.net>
- 17) Hallicrafters SR-75
by RICHARD SOLOMON <w1ksz@q.com>
- 18) BA long shot - TMC TIS-3 FSK unit?

by "Nick England" <nick@3rdtech.com>
19) Re: Buddy can u spare a RT-70 hulk?
by john <johnmb@nc.rr.com>
20) Re: Buddy can u spare a RT-70 hulk?
by AAFRadio <mike_25-z@aafradio.org>
21) Re: PTT mod for Johnson Ranger
by "Tom Rauch" <w8ji@contesting.com>
22) Re: My first CQ WWDX Contest + A PUZZLE
by K8MF0@aol.com

Date: Tue, 27 Nov 2007 12:25:47 -0500
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
From: w8au@sssnnet.com
Subject: Re: My first CQ WWDX Contest
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed
Message-Id: <20071127172552.5205C318144@srvr1.theporch.com>

At 11:42 AM 11/27/2007, Dr. James C. Garland wrote:
>Here's a trip down memory lane, prompted by this past weekend's DX contest.
>I came across the log for my first ever DX contest. October 26,
>1956 CQ WW CW DX
>contest. I was running 135W input to a 4D32 final, with a small (16 ft boom) 3
>ele Telrex monobander, up about 50 ft. My receiver was a 75A-1.

Oh, my... such quality gear at such a young age. :-) You must have had a
nice benefactor (Dad a ham?) Lucky you!

My teenage station at that same time was a couple ARC-5 command xmtrs and
a barn-door wide Halli S-19R, plus a 66 ft wire dipole. DX was worked only
when the bands were quiet and little competition.

In either case, we sure got good on-the-air training in those days. Mental
selectivity was honed to perfection.... that's the reason I can tune out
my xyl's ranting while listening to something more substantive. ;-)

Really gets her goat!

Perry w8au

Message-ID: <046301c83128\$3fc0ec40\$640fa8c0@radiatoroom>
From: "Tom Rauch" <w8ji@contesting.com>
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: Re: My first CQ WWDX Contest
Date: Tue, 27 Nov 2007 14:03:41 -0500
MIME-Version: 1.0

Content-Type: text/plain;
format=flowed;
charset="iso-8859-1";
reply-type=response
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

> My teenage station at that same time was a couple ARC-5
> command xmtrs and
> a barn-door wide Halli S-19R, plus a 66 ft wire dipole.
> DX was worked only
> when the bands were quiet and little competition.
>
> In either case, we sure got good on-the-air training in
> those days. Mental
> selectivity was honed to perfection.... that's the reason
> I can tune out
> my xyl's ranting while listening to something more
> substantive. ;-)

The best thing in life that ever happened to me was a love
for radio and science and not a dime to buy equipment.

It forced me to read books and learn to build things from
scrap radios and TV's I brought home from the dump. When I
would show up with a wagon as a skinny 11 year old the guy
at the gate to the dump would laugh, but 11 years later I
owned a radio business and had three employees and he was
still working at the gate of the dump.

All really because I couldn't afford to buy anything. What
seemed tough to me really as a kid was a big advantage.

73 Tom

Message-ID: <004401c83146\$43d392b0\$309e480c@KB6NAX>
From: "Arden Allen" <gumbear@pacbell.net>
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: Re: Did you know yellow print makes 6146s mo bettah?
Date: Tue, 27 Nov 2007 14:20:39 -0800
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

> Good for laughs...

There is ONE thing more rare than Sylvania yellow paint:

"DOUGHT"

Quite a doughty follow....

Arden Allen
KB6NAX

Message-ID: <004501c83146\$452ce120\$309e480c@KB6NAX>
From: "Arden Allen" <gumbear@pacbell.net>
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: Re: PERFECT NOS NIB MATCHING PAIR OF 6146B/8298A 8298 TUBES
Date: Tue, 27 Nov 2007 14:23:49 -0800
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

> I have a Mercury drug-store stand-up tester in my storage unit, just
> waiting to go home. I figure I'll set it up in the garage.

I've got you beat. I have a Mercury cigar box size tester. It has a mirror
in the lid so you can spruce up your image while waiting for tubes to warm
up ;-)

Arden Allen
KB6NAX

Message-ID: <004701c83146\$48b28570\$309e480c@KB6NAX>
From: "Arden Allen" <gumbear@pacbell.net>
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: Re: My first CQ WWDX Contest
Date: Tue, 27 Nov 2007 14:38:10 -0800
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

> All really because I couldn't afford to buy anything. What
> seemed tough to me really as a kid was a big advantage.

And nowadays with layers of laws to protect kids from childhood there's damn
little chance a kid can discover the world on his own. It all has to be
canned and forced into kids receptors to make them perfect politically
correct citizens with underdeveloped brains to match their underdeveloped

couch potato bodies. And global warming is supposed to be bad....

Arden Allen
KB6NAX

Message-ID: <17962677.1196208562440.JavaMail.root@elwamui-hound.atl.sa.earthlink.net>
Date: Tue, 27 Nov 2007 16:09:21 -0800 (GMT-08:00)
From: spr@earthlink.net
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: Re: My first CQ WWDX Contest
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=UTF-8
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Tom wrote:

>
>The best thing in life that ever happened to me was a love
>for radio and science and not a dime to buy equipment.
>
>It forced me to read books and learn to build things from
>scrap radios and TV's I brought home from the dump. When I
>would show up with a wagon as a skinny 11 year old the guy
>at the gate to the dump would laugh, but 11 years later I
>owned a radio business and had three employees and he was
>still working at the gate of the dump.
>
>All really because I couldn't afford to buy anything. What
>seemed tough to me really as a kid was a big advantage.
>
>73 Tom
>
and Scott agrees:

I grew up on an academic salary, and became an expert scrounger just as you describe. It's a very useful skill!

Peace,

Scott

Mime-Version: 1.0 (Apple Message framework v752.2)
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
Message-Id: <047A18C2-D6F6-44F2-A6A7-25E65FC05263@bellsouth.net>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII; format=flowed
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>

From: Tom Norris <r390a@bellsouth.net>
Subject: changing address at theporch.com
Date: Tue, 27 Nov 2007 19:57:29 -0600

How do I change my address on theporch.com?
The questions seem odd and the links seem broken.

The new address will be ---
Tom Norris NU4G.radio@gmail.com

Message-ID: <474CDB23.6090400@kitparts.com>
Date: Tue, 27 Nov 2007 21:06:11 -0600
From: Thomas Frobase <tfrobase@kitparts.com>
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: Off subject but relative
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1; format=flowed
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

I was lucky enough to ride my bike to Fair radio and dig through Joe's trash, he always loaded me up with everything I could carry. Kids do not know much about scrounging today. I guess it came from our depression era parents, waste not want not 73, tom, N3LLL

From: wb3fau@att.net
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: Re: My first CQ WWDX Contest
Date: Wed, 28 Nov 2007 14:56:04 +0000
Message-Id:
<112820071456.11262.474D81840008938C00002BFE22230704929B0A02D29B9B0EBF9A0E00CC0D99@att.net>

it always amazes me to hear these stories. whats equally amazing is what a person can do, if he just tries. I think most of us "older" hams have learned, you enjoy the equipment the most, that you have built or rebuilt yourself. Russ.

From: wb3fau@att.net
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Cc: "Arden Allen" <gumbear@pacbell.net>
Subject: Re: PERFECT NOS NIB MATCHING PAIR OF 6146B/8298A 8298 TUBES
Date: Wed, 28 Nov 2007 15:22:35 +0000
Message-Id:

<112820071522.2952.474D87BB00079B7D000000B8822230704929B0A02D29B9B0EBF9A0E00CC0D99@att.net>

Spruce Up Your Image-hmm, just get rid of all that old junk!

From: wb3fau@att.net
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Cc: "Arden Allen" <gumbear@pacbell.net>
Subject: Re: My first CQ WWDX Contest
Date: Wed, 28 Nov 2007 15:24:41 +0000
Message-Id:
<112820071524.8898.474D88390003B077000022C222230704929B0A02D29B9B0EBF9A0E00CC0D99@att.net>

Do i dare touch that? Global Warming? A natural phenomemon?

From: "Dr. James C. Garland" <4cx250b@muohio.edu>
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: PTT mod for Johnson Ranger
Date: Wed, 28 Nov 2007 10:15:22 -0700
Message-ID: <007401c831e2\$431e2c80\$bd00a8c0@Garland>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: multipart/alternative;
boundary="-----_NextPart_000_0075_01C831A7.96BF5480"

This is a multi-part message in MIME format.

-----=_NextPart_000_0075_01C831A7.96BF5480
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="us-ascii"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

This past week I've been restoring an EFJ Ranger II I acquired a few years ago, but had never taken out of its cabinet. I was pleasantly surprised to find out it was factory wired and all original. Even the tubes were labeled with the Johnson logo. I replaced all the electrolytics and an open wirewound adjustable divider (that supplied screen voltage for the 7027 modulators), installed a surge current limiter, and lubricated the mechanical shaft linkages, and it seemed to work fine. However, I ran into a stumbling block when I started to install the PTT mod.

The PTT mod is harder to install than one might think because access to the terminals on the bottom of the function switch is not easy. But for me the real problem was finding the correct relay. A DPST DC relay with a 10K ohm

coil is specified, powered by 75V from a voltage divider chain tied to the 300V LV supply. I had no relay that even came close, and couldn't find a suitable one at Mouser, Digikey, Jameco, etc.

Instead I used a cheap 12V DC DPST relay with a 75 ohm coil, and powered it off the 6.3VAC filament supply. I used a half-wave rectifier (1N4007) and 2200 uF/16V capacitor. It works very smoothly (at about 8V DC) and, since the 6.3VAC is available at the clamp tube on the little shelf next to the function switch, it makes for a very clean installation. Also, I'd prefer to switch 12V with my microphone than 75V.

I wonder why EFJ didn't do something like that in their original design? The cost would have been lower, since there would be no need for expensive power resistors to drop the 300V down to 75V. Maybe a 2200 uF cap wasn't readily available in those days. My Ranger I has a schematic dated 1954, and the Ranger II schematic is dated 1962. Surprisingly, there are almost no circuit changes in the design over those years (except that 6m is substituted for 11m in the Ranger II). The Ranger is a nice little transmitter, with clean audio, and about 40W output.

73,

Jim W8ZR

-----=_NextPart_000_0075_01C831A7.96BF5480

Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii

Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

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* * * * *
*      ---REMAINDER OF MESSAGE TRUNCATED---      *
*      This post contains a forbidden message format      *
* (such as an attached file, a v-card, HTML formatting) *
*      Mail Lists at theporch.com only accept PLAIN TEXT      *
* If your postings display this message your mail program *
* is not set to send PLAIN TEXT ONLY and needs adjusting *
* * * * *
```

-----=_NextPart_000_0075_01C831A7.96BF5480--

Date: Wed, 28 Nov 2007 12:17:33 -0500 (EST)
From: stuck in 50s <polepeeg@aaa4rm.ba-watch.org>
Message-Id: <200711281717.1ASHHX1d014590@fracas.netboobie.org>
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: Buddy can u spare a RT-70 hulk?

I've got one with a tratched main-tuning bellows coupling. A working one already. Powered by a 12V gel cell, drug-store 117v inverter plus 6VDC & 5VDC wall warts AND f-w bridge/L/C across 117vac. Entire package in Whole Foods hand basket. To preserve natural aspect. A kind of goodie-goodie's PRC-9

Bellows was hit by a yellow-lettered 6146B thrown in anger.

So if you have a de-tubed wreck or the front panel/module, I'd trade a un-suffixed 6146 for same. Note unsuffixed 6146s are believed all that's right in an early kwm-2 or kwm-1. And they have better ssb-stage.

Marty

Date: Wed, 28 Nov 2007 10:23:59 -0700
From: Richard Loken <richardlo@admin.athabascau.ca>
Subject: Re: Buddy can u spare a RT-70 hulk?
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Cc: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

On Wed, 28 Nov 2007, stuck in 50s wrote:

> trade a un-suffixed 6146 for same. Note unsuffixed 6146s are believed
> all that's right in an early kwm-2 or kwm-1. And they have better
> ssb-stage.

Oh they do, do they? :)

--

Richard Loken VE6BSV, Systems Programmer - VMS	:	"Anybody can be a father
Athabasca University	:	but you have to earn
Athabasca, Alberta Canada	:	the title of 'daddy'"
** richardlo@admin.athabascau.ca **	:	- Lynn Johnston

Message-ID: <474DAF84.5040207@mindspring.com>

Date: Wed, 28 Nov 2007 13:12:20 -0500
From: Garey Barrell <k4oah@mindspring.com>
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: Re: PTT mod for Johnson Ranger
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1; format=flowed
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Jim -

A very nice transmitter.

I can think of two reasons for the "HV" relay..

First of all, silicon diodes were not available when the design was done in the early 50's. Nor were very high value, low voltage capacitors common. You'll notice the 6AL5 rectifier tube on the little "porch" chassis behind the function switch.

Second, 10k coil "Plate" or "Sensitive" relays were quite common. You don't see them very often any more, for the same reason it can be difficult to find a component rated at more than 50V!!

Certainly 12V on your PTT is more desirable, but keep in mind that everything had high voltage floating around in it, we expected to find it and knew how to deal with it!! Today the public (and even many "hams", unfortunately) are scared to death of anything over 12V. Thanks to the "safety" ranting by the nanny-state government.

73, Garey - K40AH
Glen Allen, VA

Drake 2-B, 4-B & C-Line Service Supplement CDs
<www.k4oah.com>

Dr. James C. Garland wrote:

```
> * * * * *
> *      ---REMAINDER OF MESSAGE TRUNCATED---      *
> *      This post contains a forbidden message format      *
> *      (such as an attached file, a v-card, HTML formatting) *
> *      Mail Lists at theporch.com only accept PLAIN TEXT      *
> *      If your postings display this message your mail program *
> *      is not set to send PLAIN TEXT ONLY and needs adjusting *
> * * * * *
>
```

Message-ID: <003301c831ee\$d9e9ba10\$18a0480c@KB6NAX>
From: "Arden Allen" <gumbear@pacbell.net>
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: Re: PTT mod for Johnson Ranger
Date: Wed, 28 Nov 2007 10:44:31 -0800
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

> I wonder why EFJ didn't do something like that in their original design?

High DC voltage relays were common way back when radios still glowed. So were high resistance wirewound resistors. Meaning cheap. But solid state rectifiers? Seleniums at that low a voltage operation weren't so common. The plates were large for low series resistance and I suspect they weren't so cheap as jelly beans go. Big microfarads a problem also.

Arden Allen
KB6NAX

Message-ID: <BAY130-W13E5726F551A021FBAFE34E0770@phx.gbl>
Content-Type: multipart/alternative;
 boundary="_a126acbc-7477-43a0-a47b-017d635b8593_"
From: RICHARD SOLOMON <w1kszz@q.com>
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: Hallicrafters SR-75
Date: Wed, 28 Nov 2007 19:18:10 +0000
MIME-Version: 1.0

--_a126acbc-7477-43a0-a47b-017d635b8593_
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

Every so often I get the urge to get one of these. Anyone have one they will part with ?

=20

Tnx, Dick, W1KSZ/7=

--_a126acbc-7477-43a0-a47b-017d635b8593_
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

* * * * *
* ---REMAINDER OF MESSAGE TRUNCATED--- *
* This post contains a forbidden message format *

* (such as an attached file, a v-card, HTML formatting) *
* Mail Lists at theporch.com only accept PLAIN TEXT *
* If your postings display this message your mail program *
* is not set to send PLAIN TEXT ONLY and needs adjusting *
* * * * *

--_a126acbc-7477-43a0-a47b-017d635b8593_--

Date: Wed, 28 Nov 2007 14:23:07 -0500
From: "Nick England" <nick@3rdtech.com>
Subject: BA long shot - TMC TIS-3 FSK unit?
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Message-id: <030c01c831f4\$1c551b60\$fd0212ac@Heathkit2>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

Last weekend while rummaging in the basement, I uncovered a piece of gear that I had mostly parted out many many years ago - and now wish I hadn't. It was a TH-39A/UG, a.k.a a TMC TIS-3 - it looks like an interesting audio tone keyer (AFSK generator). Any chance anyone has a parts unit? - it looks like the same construction as the CV-591 - 5-1/4" high rack mount. There are photos of a complete unit at <http://www.jamminpower.com/eBay/TMC/TIS-3.html>

For some reason, I left the p/s and front panel intact - also found a few more pieces but I guess I discarded or traded-away the main chassis, crystal oven, etc. at some point - I wonder why I did that?

Anyway, if you are rummaging around your basement, attic, garage, backyard, whatever, and run across some pieces of one of these gadgets please keep me in mind.

73 & Have Fun,
Nick KD4CPL

Message-Id: <6.2.1.2.2.20071128165040.0320d390@pop-server.nc.rr.com>
Date: Wed, 28 Nov 2007 16:51:04 -0500
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
From: john <johnmb@nc.rr.com>
Subject: Re: Buddy can u spare a RT-70 hulk?
Cc: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

Marty's been into the adjective jar too much recently!

John k5MO

At 12:23 PM 11/28/2007, Richard Loken wrote:

>On Wed, 28 Nov 2007, stuck in 50s wrote:

>

> > trade a un-suffixed 6146 for same. Note unsuffixed 6146s are believed

> > all that's right in an early kwm-2 or kwm-1. And they have better

> > ssb-stage.

>

>Oh they do, do they? :)

>

>--

> Richard Loken VE6BSV, Systems Programmer - VMS : "Anybody can be a father

> Athabasca University : but you have to earn

> Athabasca, Alberta Canada : the title of 'daddy'"

> ** richardlo@admin.athabascau.ca ** : - Lynn Johnston

Message-ID: <474DE84A.6070808@aafradio.org>

Date: Wed, 28 Nov 2007 17:14:34 -0500

From: AAFRadio <mike_25-z@aafradio.org>

MIME-Version: 1.0

To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>

Subject: Re: Buddy can u spare a RT-70 hulk?

Content-Type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1; format=flowed

Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Marty uses adjectives? I thought they were just nouveau-nouns...I sorta liked the morph from sound-stage to ssb-stage. :-)

- Mike KC4TOS

john wrote:

>

> Marty's been into the adjective jar too much recently!

>

> John k5MO

>

> At 12:23 PM 11/28/2007, Richard Loken wrote:

>

>> On Wed, 28 Nov 2007, stuck in 50s wrote:

>>

>> > trade a un-suffixed 6146 for same. Note unsuffixed 6146s are believed

>> > all that's right in an early kwm-2 or kwm-1. And they have better

>> > ssb-stage.
>>
>> Oh they do, do they? :)
>>
>> Richard Loken
>

Message-ID: <02ab01c8320d\$cacc9d30\$640fa8c0@radiatoroom>
From: "Tom Rauch" <w8ji@contesting.com>
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: Re: PTT mod for Johnson Ranger
Date: Wed, 28 Nov 2007 17:26:41 -0500
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
format=flowed;
charset="iso-8859-1";
reply-type=original
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

> Instead I used a cheap 12V DC DPST relay with a 75 ohm
> coil, and powered it
> off the 6.3VAC filament supply. I used a half-wave
> rectifier (1N4007) and
> 2200 uF/16V capacitor. It works very smoothly (at about 8V
> DC) and, since
> the 6.3VAC is available at the clamp tube on the little
> shelf next to the
> function switch, it makes for a very clean installation.
> Also, I'd prefer
> to switch 12V with my microphone than 75V.

Ouch on the 75 ohm coil!!

That would be a few hundred MA in the mic lead. You better either use a separate wire to the mic switch for ground and hot to the PTT switch or have a well-filtered supply with all that current.

What I do is use a PNP transistor as a buffer so dc current to the mic switch is only a few mA. That way I don't get hum into the lead from relay current.

Johnson did a smart thing because the % ripple on the dc from the relay was really low and current was low too. This meant any leads to the mic would not induce hum.

Not only was it easier to get the HV parts, it also made the current low and very well filtered. It's the current ripple level that causes the problems, not the voltage.

73 Tom

From: K8MF0@aol.com
Message-ID: <cee.229e3a7f.347f5574@aol.com>
Date: Wed, 28 Nov 2007 18:36:20 EST
Subject: Re: My first CQ WWDX Contest + A PUZZLE
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: multipart/alternative;
boundary="-----1196292980"

-----1196292980
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="US-ASCII"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

In a message dated 11/27/2007 11:45:42 A.M. Eastern Standard Time,
4cx250b@muohio.edu (W8ZR) writes:

I came across the log for my first ever
DX contest. The date was October 26, 1956

Then W8AU wrote:

In either case, we sure got good on-the-air training in those days. Mental selectivity was honed to perfection.... that's the reason I can tune out my xyl's ranting while listening to something more substantive. ;-)

And W8JI chimed in:

The best thing in life that ever happened to me was a love
for radio and science and not a dime to buy equipment.

I have met all of these guys in person...

WOW! Some real coincidences here. Recently I checked out my first CQ

WWDX CW Contest log and it contained 7 contacts in the 1959 event. I had been licensed for one year at that time. Here are my QSOs...all on 10 meters, using a DX-40/AT-1 and SX-99 receiver.. VP6RG, TI2CAH, KZ5TD, YV4CI, K4CEF, TI2CMF (still active as TI4CF), and OQ5IG in the Belgian Congo. Incidentally the antenna was a 75 meter bent dipole up 20 feet. I had no clue as to what SWR was, and there was no reason to worry about it. My dad used that antenna to rag chew with his buddies on 75 AM. The SX-99 drifted every time that someone opened a door on the house. Signals were chased outside. I spent a lot of time that weekend opening a door on the other side of the house to let the signals back inside!

What did this all prove? Basically that I had a lot to learn. So I did in many areas.

Let us "fast forward" 48 years to this past weekend. The last few months have been devoted to actually putting some of my classic radios on the air. I decided that I would go out into my barn this past Friday night for my personal 49th running of the DX Contest. Refer to the picture for the gear I chose with 30 watts of output. Instead of running my "decent aluminum forest", my choice was to run a Windom antenna, invented 75 miles south of here in 1929 by W8GZ (Loren Windom). Why a Windom? Because I did not want to mess with a tuner and stress the old tube transmitter, which is still using its original tubes.

I intended to be out in the barn for a couple of hours and then come back to the comfort of my TS--930, legal limit amplifier, and aluminum jungle. Guess what? I had so much fun in the barn that all of my operation took place from out there.

It took 7 minutes this year to equal my entire QSO total from 1959! I set a goal of 500 DX QSOs and that was achieved in 25 hours. 10 meters was dead, and 15 was not much better. At the top of the cycle, I would have set a goal of 1000 QSOs, because of improved conditions on 10 and 15.

Thanks to W8ZR for starting the topical thread ... tor W8AU for pointing out that experience with low level equipment is invaluable, and to W8JI for pointing out that a quest for knowledge is more important than having things handed to you on a silver platter.

Now the PUZZLE! Go to the following URL and identify ALL major components of my station. That includes the key! The winner gets ETERNAL GLORY for being a "clever dude". There are 6 pieces in total, including the key. Who among you is clever enough to get them all right?

One last comment... Everything in the station drifts a little bit, including, the operator, but we all do OK once we get warmed up..

Here is the URL.. Hope it makes its way through this site:

[_http://members.aol.com/k8mfo/goodstuff_](http://members.aol.com/k8mfo/goodstuff_)
(<http://members.aol.com/k8mfo/goodstuff>)

If not, email me directly and I will send it to you so that you can prove how clever you are!

73

Don K8MFO

Christmas Tree Farmer in Ohio's Amish Country

*****Check out AOL's list of 2007's hottest products.
(<http://money.aol.com/special/hot-products-2007?NCID=aoltop00030000000001>)

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